



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

NEWS RELEASE

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VETERANS HOME OF CALIFORNIA – WEST LOS ANGELES SEEKS VOLUNTEERS FOR SERVICE TO VETERANS

West Los Angeles – The beautiful, newly-opened Veterans Home of California – West Los Angeles is seeking volunteers for many opportunities to be of service to the Veterans residing in the new facility.

There are a variety of roles for volunteers to fulfill within the Veterans Home including, but not limited to: recreational activities, community outings, companionship, arts and crafts, sponsorships, resident fitness and assisting with special events. Entertainers and instructors are also welcome and encouraged to volunteer their talents.

“Becoming involved with the Volunteer Services Program at the Veterans Home of California—West Los Angeles will be a superb way for members of the surrounding community to assist those who have served our country,” said Brittney Thomas, Coordinator of Volunteer Services. The first Volunteers’ Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 14, 2010 at 5 p.m. Those interested in attending this meeting are asked to please contact Ms. Thomas by October 12, 2010 at 424-832-8384. The Veterans Home of California – West Los Angeles is located on the grounds of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, north of Wilshire Boulevard on Nimitz Avenue.

On October 4, 2010, the first Veterans were officially admitted to the lovely, new Veterans Home of California—West Los Angeles. The beautifully landscaped, modern Veterans Home has the capability to care for 396 residents. The first phase of care is a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (or assisting living) for Veterans 62 or older, or younger if disabled. Later phases will include a Skilled Nursing Facility with an Alzheimer’s/dementia, or Memory Care Unit.

The Veterans Homes of California are first and foremost, a place where Veterans come to live. They provide California’s Veterans with a living environment that protects their dignity and contributes to their feelings of self-reliance and self-worth. Residents will be provided meals, excellent medical care, socialization, transportation, recreation, rehabilitation and will be assisted with activities of daily living, such as bathing, dining and/or taking medications.

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The West Los Angeles site is one of three new Veterans Homes of California in Greater Los Angeles and Ventura Counties constructed in the past year. Individually, these Veterans Homes are referred to as the Veterans Home of California – West Los Angeles; the William J. “Pete” Knight Veterans Home of California – Lancaster; and the Veterans Home of California – Ventura. Every Veterans Home of California has been built as an expression of gratitude toward California’s deserving Veterans.

Construction for the Veterans Home of California – West Los Angeles began in July, 2007. The estimated cost is \$253 million and was funded in partnership with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

CalVet’s mission is to promote and deliver the benefits provided by the grateful State of California to its deserving Veterans and their families – with a vision for California’s Veterans to live the highest quality of life with dignity and honor. It is the Department’s goal to provide the best long-term care and enhanced quality of life for all California Veterans Home residents in a homelike environment and foster a sense of community and camaraderie with other Veterans who may share similar experiences.

In order to be eligible for admission to a Veterans Home of California, an applicant must be age 62 or older (or younger if disabled), a resident of California, and have served honorably in the military. Applications for admission are being accepted by contacting the Admissions Office at 424-832-8204.

Veterans Homes are also in operation in the cities of Barstow and Chula Vista. Future sites include Redding and Fresno, both currently under construction. For additional information on the Veterans Homes of California, as well as Veterans benefits, employment, educational resources, services, CalVet Home Loans, Veterans license plates, the Gold Star Family License Plate Program, “Operation Welcome Home,” the Mexican-American Veterans Memorial Beautification, and more, please log on to the CalVet website at www.calvet.ca.gov.

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